§ 173.35 Hazardous materials in intermediate bulk containers (IBCs).

(a) No person may offer or accept a hazardous material for transportation in an intermediate bulk container except as authorized by this subchapter. Each intermediate bulk container used for the transportation of hazardous materials must conform to the requirements of its specification and regulations for the transportation of the particular commodity. A specification intermediate bulk container, for which the prescribed periodic retest or inspection under subpart D of part 180 of this subchapter is past due, may not be filled and offered for transportation until the retest or inspection have been successfully completed. This requirement does not apply to any intermediate bulk container filled prior to the retest or inspection due date.

(b) Initial use and reuse of IBCs. An IBC other than a multiwall paper IBC (13M1 and 13M2) may be reused. If an inner liner is required, the inner liner must be replaced before each reuse. Before an IBC is filled and offered for transportation, the IBC and its service equipment must be given an external visual inspection, by the person filling the IBC, to ensure that:

(1) The IBC is free from corrosion, contamination, cracks, cuts, or other damage which would render it unable to pass the prescribed design type test to which it is certified and marked; and

(2) The IBC is marked in accordance with requirements in §178.703 of this subchapter. Additional marking allowed for each design type may be present. Required markings that are missing, damaged or difficult to read must be restored or returned to original condition.

(c) A metal intermediate bulk container, or a part thereof, subject to thinning by mechanical abrasion or corrosion due to the lading, must be protected by providing a suitable increase in thickness of material, a lining or some other suitable method of protection. Increased thickness for corrosion or abrasion protection must be added to the wall thickness specified in §178.705(c)(1)(iv) of this subchapter.

(d) Notwithstanding requirements in §173.24b of this subpart, when filling an intermediate bulk container with liquids, sufficient ullage must be left to ensure that, at the mean bulk temperature of 50 °C (122 °F), the intermediate bulk container is not filled to more than 98 percent of its water capacity.

(e) Where two or more closure systems are fitted in series, the system nearest to the hazardous material being carried must be closed first.

(f) During transportation—

(1) No hazardous material may remain on the outside of the intermediate bulk container; and

(2) Each intermediate bulk container must be securely fastened to or contained within the transport unit.

(g) Each intermediate bulk container used for transportation of solids which may become liquid at temperatures likely to be encountered during transportation must also be capable of containing the substance in the liquid state.

(h) Liquid hazardous materials may only be offered for transportation in a metal, rigid plastic, or composite intermediate bulk container that is appropriately resistant to an increase of internal pressure likely to develop during transportation.

(1) A rigid plastic or composite intermediate bulk container may only be filled with a liquid having a vapor pressure less than or equal to the greater of the following two values: the first value is determined from any of the methods in paragraphs (h)(1) (i), (ii) or (iii) of this section. The second value is determined by the method in paragraph (h)(1)(iv) of this section.

(i) The gauge pressure (pressure in the intermediate bulk container above ambient atmospheric pressure) measured in the intermediate bulk container at 55 °C (131 °F). This gauge pressure must not exceed two-thirds of the marked test pressure and must be determined after the intermediate bulk container was filled and closed at 15 °C (60 °F) to less than or equal to 98 percent of its capacity.

(ii) The absolute pressure (vapor pressure of the hazardous material plus atmospheric pressure) in the intermediate bulk container at 50 °C (122 °F). This absolute pressure must not exceed four-sevenths of the sum of the marked test pressure and 100 kPa (14.5 psi).

(iii) The absolute pressure (vapor pressure of the hazardous material plus atmospheric pressure) in the intermediate bulk container at 55 °C (131 °F). This absolute pressure must not exceed two-thirds of the sum of the marked test pressure and 100 kPa (14.5 psi).

(iv) Twice the static pressure of the substance, measured at the bottom of the intermediate bulk container. This value must not be less than twice the static pressure of water.

(2) Gauge pressure (pressure in the intermediate bulk container above ambient atmospheric pressure) in metal intermediate bulk containers must not exceed 110 kPa (16 psig) at 50 °C (122 °F) or 130 kPa (18.9 psig) at 55 °C (131 °F).

(i) The requirements in this section do not apply to DOT–56 or –57 portable tanks.

(j) No intermediate bulk container may be filled with a Packing Group I liquid. Rigid plastic, composite, flexible, wooden or fiberboard intermediate bulk containers used to transport Packing Group I solid materials may not exceed 1.5 cubic meters (53 cubic feet) capacity. For Packing Group I solids, a metal intermediate bulk container may not exceed 3 cubic meters (106 cubic feet) capacity.

(k) When an intermediate bulk container is used for the transportation of liquids with a flashpoint of 60.5 °C (141 °F) (closed cup) or lower, or powders with the potential for dust explosion, measures must be taken during product loading and unloading to prevent a dangerous electrostatic discharge.

(l) *Intermediate bulk container filling limits.* (1) Except as provided in this section, an intermediate bulk container may not be filled with a hazardous material in excess of the maximum gross mass marked on that container.

(2) An intermediate bulk container which is tested and marked for Packing Group II liquid materials may be filled with a Packing Group III liquid material to a gross mass not exceeding 1.5 times the maximum gross mass marked on that container, if all the performance criteria can still be met at the higher gross mass.

(3) An intermediate bulk container which is tested and marked for liquid hazardous materials may be filled with a solid hazardous material to a gross mass not exceeding the maximum gross mass marked on that container. In addition, an intermediate bulk container intended for the transport of liquids which is tested and marked for Packing Group II liquid materials may be filled with a Packing Group III solid hazardous material to a gross mass not exceeding the marked maximum gross mass multiplied by 1.5 if all the performance criteria can still be met at the higher gross mass.

(4) An intermediate bulk container which is tested and marked for Packing Group I solid materials may be filled with a Packing Group II solid material to a gross mass not exceeding the maximum gross mass marked on that container, multiplied by 1.5, if all the performance criteria can be met at the higher gross mass; or a Packing Group III solid material to a gross mass not exceeding the maximum gross mass marked on the intermediate bulk container, multiplied by 2.25, if all the performance criteria can be met at the higher gross mass. An intermediate bulk container which is tested and marked for Packing Group II solid materials may be filled with a Packing Group III solid material to a gross mass not exceeding the maximum gross mass marked on the intermediate bulk container, multiplied by 1.5.

[Amdt. 173–238, 59 FR 38064, July 26, 1994, as amended by Amdt. 173–243, 60 FR 40038, Aug. 4, 1995; 64 FR 10777, Mar. 5, 1999]

§ 173.40 General packaging requirements for poisonous materials required to be packaged in cylinders.

When this section is referenced in the packaging section for a hazardous material elsewhere in this part, the following requirements are applicable to cylinders used for that material:

(a) *Authorized cylinders.* A cylinder must conform to one of the specifications for cylinders in subpart C of part 178 of this subchapter, except that Specification 8, 8AL and 39 cylinders are not authorized.

(b) *Outage and pressure requirements.* The pressure of the hazardous material at 55 °C (131 °F) must not exceed the service pressure of the cylinder. Sufficient outage shall be provided so that